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SUBJECT: MEDIA REACTION: INDIA-PAKISTAN RELATIONS; NEW DELHI.

This countrywide cable reports on relevant media reaction/opinion from India's large non-English press. The Mission reports on English-language media via email through the daily "Early Edition" summary.

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INDIA-PAKISTAN RELATIONS  
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11. "PAKISTAN REMAINS ADAMANT," editorial in February 26 centrist Marathi daily, PRAHAR: "India gave an opportunity to Pakistan to iron out its differences in the ongoing Foreign Secretary-level talks, but our neighbor does not seem to be reciprocating in good faith. The attitude of Pakistan's Foreign Secretary, Salman Bashir, was far from flexible. He did not commit to any action to pin down terrorist forces operating from Pakistan. The four hours of discussion in New Delhi ended without any dates for further meetings or a joint statement. Though very few in India expected a breakthrough, India will at least benefit on one score -Pakistan's adamant stance was exposed in front of the global community."

12. "DIALOGUE PROCESS: EXERCISE IN FUTILITY," editorial in February 26 right-of-center Gujarati daily, MUMBAI SAMACHAR: "The Foreign Secretary-level talks between India and Pakistan, as expected, turned out to be a casual exercise rather than a constructive process. And why wouldn't it have been, especially when both the unwilling parties had to come to the table at America's

behest! We need to understand that Pakistan doesn't have anything to discuss except its 'hostility' towards India. The only option left with India is to tailor her trade and commerce diplomacy in such a way that will pressure Pakistan to act in a more mature and responsible manner. The people of India consider such dialogues a conspiracy that makes India a laughing stock in front of the international community. India needs a strong and decisive policy to deal with Pakistan."

ROEMER